

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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R 151825Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5813
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 3144

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, JM, UR
SUBJECT: SOVIET VIEWS ON JAMAICA

1. DURING JUNE 14 LUNCHEON CONVERSATION SOVIET CHARGE YURI LOGINOV TOLD CHARGE THAT HE "REMAINS IN THE DARK" CONCERNING THE OUTCOME OF THE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN VARIOUS SOVIET MINISTRIES AND THE JAMAICAN TEAM WHICH RECENTLY VISITED MOSCOW AND HAS NOW RETURNED TO KINGSTON. NONETHELESS, LOGINOV SAID, HE ANTICIPATES NO BALANCE OF PAYMENTS ASSISTANCE OF ANY KIND-- PERPAPS ONLY SMALL AMOOOUNTS OF PROJECT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OVER THE LONG TERM. THE ONLY REAL AID MOSCOW CAN PROVIDE, HE SAID, IS INCREASED TRADE. ASKED ABOUT POSSIBLE SOVIET PURCHASES OF BAUXITE OR ALUMINA IN THE NEAR FUTURE, AND THE RUMORED POSSIBILITY OF ADVANCE PAYMENTS OF SUCH PURCHASES, LOGINOV SAID THAT HE DID NOT SEE HOW THE FOREGOING COULD BE ARRANGED IN THE NEAR FUTURE. POSSIBLY THERE WOULD BE AGREEMENTS REACHED FOR BAUXITE/ALUMINA PURCHASES PROVIDED FOR DELIVERIES IN THE MORE DISTANT FUTURE. HE DISCUSSED AT LENGTH THE PROBLEM OF MATCHING JAMAICAN BAUXITE TO SOVIET PROCESSING TECHNOLOGY.

2. LOINOV ASKED WHAT THE USG WOULD DO FOR JAMAICA.
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HE WAS TOLD THAT WE ARE CURRENTLY CONSIDERING POSSIBLE WAYS OF PROVIDING ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE BUT THAT NO FINAL DECISIONS HAD BEEN TAKEN. LOGINOV THEN VOLUNTEERED THAT THE IMF IS NOT "THE BEAST THAT SOME JAMAICANS THINK IT IS" AND WONDERED OUT LOUD HOW MUCH LONGER THE GOJ COULD PUT OFF AN AGREEMENT WITH THE IMF. HE VOLUNTEERED THAT ANY CONDITIONS THAT MIGHT BE IMPOSED

BY THE IMF WOULD BE ONLY WHAT THE JAMAICANS SHOULD DO IN ANY EVENT TO "STRAIGHTEN OUT THEIR OWN MESS".

3. HE ADMITTED TO BEING TOTALLY BAFFLED BY JAMAICAN POLITICS AND IN PARTICULAR "DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISM". " THEY ARE NOT SOCIALISTS AND ARE NOT EVEN ESPECIALLY DEMOCRATIC. ABOVE ALL JAMAICANS LACK DISCIPLINE AND THE WILL TO RESOLVE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS." HE DESCRIBED AS FOOLISHNESS" THE JAMAICAN GOVERNMENT'S PREOCCUPATION WITH AFRICAN ISSUES WHILE IGNORING THEIR OWN PROBLEMS AT HOME. IN THE LATTER CONNECTION HE SAID THAT HE WAS STUNNED BY THE RACISM SO EVIDENT IN JAMAICAN POLITICS AND SOCIETY WHICH, HE SAID, "SHOULD BE A MATTER OF GRAVE CONCERN" ON THE PART OF ANY JAMAICAN CONCERNED ABOUT JAMAICA'S FUTURE.

4. HE ASKED ABOUT MRS. CARTER'S VISIT AND WAS GIVEN A PLAYBACK OF MRS. CARTER'S PRESS CONFERENCE IN KINGSTON. HE ALSO EXPRESSED CURIOSITY AS TO WHY JAMAICANS SEEM TO BE SO CONVINCED THAT THEY HAD BEEN DESTABILIZED LAST YEAR BY THE U.S.. HE PROCEEDED TO ANSWER THE QUESTION HIMSELF BY STATING THAT HE HAD OBSERVED A DEGREE OF PARANOIA AND EGOCENTRICITY ON THE PART OF MANY JAMAICANS THAT HE HAD MET. HE COMMENTED THAT HIS OWN PROBLEM HERE HAS BEEN THAT THE ONLY INTEREST MOST JAMAICANS HAVE IN HIS PRESENCE IS THAT OF SELLING AS MUCH PROPERTY AS POSSIBLE AT THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE PRICES TO HIS MISSION.

5. COMMENT LOGINOV COMES ACROSS AS AN EXTREMELY DIS-
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ARMING, FRANK AND FRIENDLY REPRESENTATIVE OF HIS COUNTRY. HE SEEKS TO BE SOMEWHAT DISILLUSIONED WITH SOCIALISM JAMAICAN-STYLE. FOR THE MOMENT, HOWEVER, HE SEEKS TO BE MORE PREOCCUPIED WITH THE HOUSEKEEPING PROBLEMS OF OPENING A MISSION THAN ANYTHING ELSE. HE COMPLAINS THAT HE DOES NOT YET HAVE ADEQUATE COMMUNICATIONS WITH MOSCOW OR MEXICO CITY, AND THAT HE IS VERY ILL-INFORMED REGARDING FOREIGN POLICY DEVELOPMENTS IMPORTANT TO HIS ROLE HERE.
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